

Chauncey Brewer House  
(Oakhill)  
410 N. Eagle St.  
Marshall  
Calhoun County  
Michigan

HABS No. MI-244

HABS  
MICH,  
13-MARSH,  
10-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN DESCRIPTIVE AND HISTORICAL DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

HABS  
MICH,  
13-MARSH,  
10-

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CHANCEY BREWER HOUSE (Oakhill)  
HABS No. MI-244

Location: 410 N. Eagle St., Marshall, Calhoun County, Michigan  
Present Owner: Mrs. Beatrice (Brewer) Dressel  
Present Occupant: Unoccupied  
Present Use: Vacant  
Significance: A representative mid-19th century mansion, which is unusually embellished and largely in its original state.

### PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

#### A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1859
2. Architect: unknown
3. Original and subsequent owners: The original owner was Chauncey M. Brewer, an early settler and prominent merchant in Marshall. The house remained in the possession of the descendants of C. M. Brewer, who moved to Marshall in 1836 from Oneonta, Otsego County, New York.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: unknown
5. Original plans and construction: none available
6. Alterations and additions: The porch on the south side was extended to the east some time after 1895.

### PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

#### A. General Statement:

1. Condition of fabric: Fairly good. Although the house is unoccupied, it is maintained sufficiently to arrest deterioration

#### B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Main portion about 36' x 40', plus a link 15' long and an end pavilion 15' wide. The front faces east.
2. Foundations: Foundation walls are low, of cobblestone squares, topped by a plain-cut sandstone water table.
3. Walls: Walls are of salmon-colored brick laid in American bond (i.e. headers every sixth course)
4. Porches: A one-story wooden porch covers the east and

south sides, 9 bays in all, rounded on the corner. The foundation and balustraded railing to be modern but the rest appears old. Piers are square, and have chamfered corners and moulded capitals. The lower edge of the architrave is shaped to curve downward toward each capital. The cornice is simple except for a pair of swan's-neck brackets with pendant ornaments over each pier.

5. Chimneys: Brick chimneys of simple form are flush with the wall and are visible only above the roof. They are located on the south wall (one), the north wall (one) and west wall of the end pavilion (one). Another on the west wall is modern, at least the upper part certainly is.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways: Entrances centered on the east (main entrance) and on the north and south walls of the link are boarded up. One simple doorway is located on the north wall of the west pavilion.
  - b. Windows: On the main portion of the house there are four bays on the south, three on the east and five on the north. They have stone (or painted wooden facsimiles) lintels, stone sills, and louvered shutters. Third-story windows are low and positioned just under the cornice.
7. Roof: The roof is hipped and of low pitch. It is now covered with asphalt composition shingles. The cornice has considerable overhang with a raking soffit, ornamented with large brackets in pairs. The brackets have ornamental pendants.
8. Cupola: Over the center of the main roof is a square cupola with three arched windows in the north side and four arched windows on the other three faces. Colonnets between each window are Y-shaped with long stems. Near each corner of the cornice are pairs of brackets. On each side at the corner, scrolled buttresses (a pair under the pair of brackets) afford a transition motif at the bottom.

C. Site:

1. General setting: This house is at the edge of the city on a hilltop with a large area of dependent land. Trees are placed informally.
2. Outbuildings: Just west of the house is a brick, two-story building, measuring about 16' x 22'. It has a hip roof, simple boxed eaves, and rectangular openings with wood lintels and stone sills. On the west side is a board and batten door. The interior is finished with plastered walls and a painted matched and beaded board ceiling. The floor at ground level is concrete. At the north end of the one-room plan is an enclosed stair to the second story. Parts of this building are deteriorating, but as of this date repairs are being made. There are also several wooden sheds on the property.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Cooper, Mabel R., "Nineteenth-Century Homes of Marshall, Michigan". Her unpublished doctoral dissertation. Florida State University (1965).

2. Secondary and published sources:

Pierce, H. B., Calhoun County History, L. H. Everts Co., Philadelphia, 1877.

-----  
Prepared by: Harley J. McKee, Architect  
National Park Service  
September 2, 1965

George E. Ruddock, Historian  
Marshall Historical Society  
August 26, 1965

Edited by: Jack Barker, Jr.  
HABS Historian  
National Park Service  
August 30, 1984